

HOUSE RESOLUTION 56

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Joan Cooper Burnett for her estimable service.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious leaders who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated religious figure is the Reverend Joan Cooper Burnett, a transformational preacher, teacher, speaker, conference host, author, and entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, Joan Burnett is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches, USA, and she earned a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, a Master of Education degree from Boston University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Burnett is the founder, President, and CEO of Joan Cooper Burnett Enterprises, a national conglomerate empowering people and changing lives, and G-GIRLS, Inc., a faith-based non-profit organization formed to foster healthy development and enrich the lives of teen girls and young women; and

WHEREAS, Joan Burnett is a former corporate executive, the President and founder of Pathways International, an executive recruiting and human resources consulting firm, and Strategies to Employ People (STEP), Inc., a job placement and training firm that partnered with the City of Hartford, Connecticut, to support the employment and training of at-risk youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, after managing and operating the two enterprises, Rev. Burnett has since served as Protestant Chaplain at Wesleyan University and Senior Pastor of the First Baptist

Church in Middletown, Connecticut, and the Black Church, an interdenominational church at Yale University; and

WHEREAS, recipient of the Charles S. Mersick Prize for effective public address, especially in preaching from Yale Divinity School, Rev. Burnett has spoken and facilitated workshops at conferences, public schools, colleges and universities, and correctional facilities, and she has preached at numerous churches internationally; and

WHEREAS, Joan Cooper Burnett has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of her community, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Joan Cooper Burnett for her estimable service and offer her our sincerest wishes for every continued success as an uplifting beacon of the Lord's good will.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.